Total Maximum Daily Load TMDL

Department of Defense Conference



Curry Jones, USEPA

Presentation Objectives

- ⇒ To present factual information about TMDLs and how they fit into watershed management.
- → To discuss how TMDLs fit into Department of Defense operations.

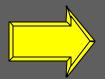
The Truth about TMDLs

Too Many Dam Lawyers
Meaningless Paper Work Exercise

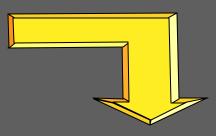
Great Tool For Watershed Management

Water Quality Management Planning Cycle





Identification of Impaired Stream Segments

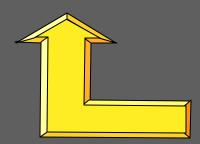




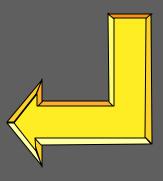
Implementation of Controls to Meet TMDL



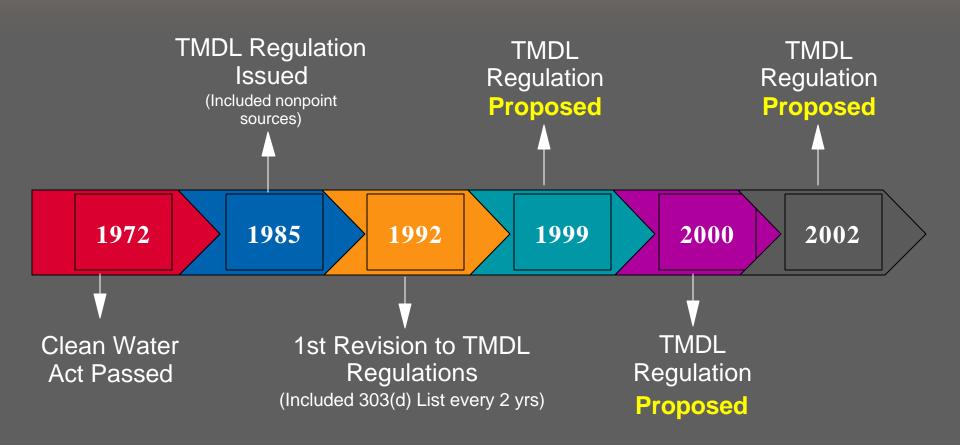
Prioritization and Targeting Impaired Waters For TMDLs



TMDLs



Regulatory History



§303(d) Clean Water Act Requires

- States to:
 - Identify waters not meeting State water quality standards -- §303(d) list
 - Set priorities for TMDL development
 - Develop a TMDL for each pollutant for each listed water
- ⇒ EPA Action Required:
 - 30 days to review and approve or disapprove.

What Information is Used to Develop the 303(d) List?

⇒ WQ Assessment Methodology:

Tool developed by the state used to assess available data to determine if waterbody meets applicable water quality standards submitted at the same time as the list.

⇒ Data:

- States use "all existing and readily available water quality-related information"
- Monitored and evaluated data.

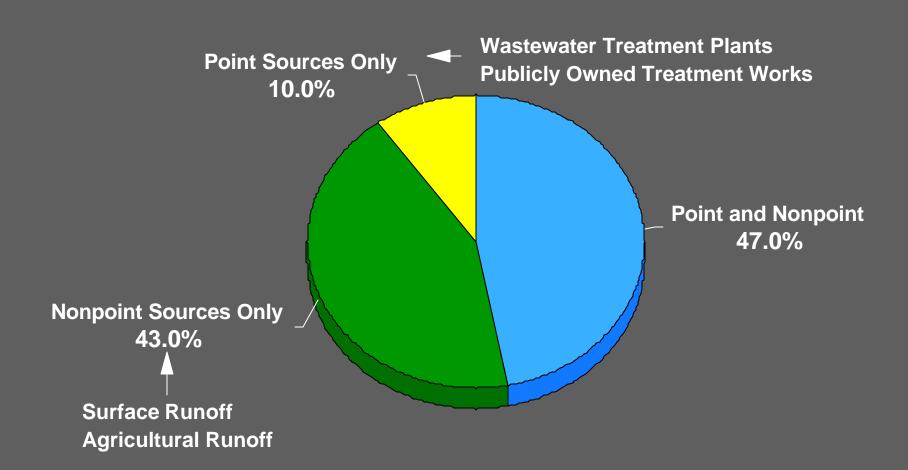
Scope of §303(d) List (Impaired Waters List)

- Scope of State lists
 - Includes waters impaired or threatened by pollutants
 - Waters needing TMDLs
 - Waters remain on the list until the TMDL is <u>approved or</u> <u>established</u>, or when water quality standards have been attained
- → 2-year listing cycle
 - Submitted to EPA on April 1 in every even numbered year

Prioritization and Targeting

- **⇒** State must also:
 - Prioritize 303(d) List for TMDL development based on:
 - Severity of pollution;
 - Beneficial Uses of the waterbody of concern, and;
 - Pollutant of concern
 - Identify waters targeted for TMDL development within the next 2 years

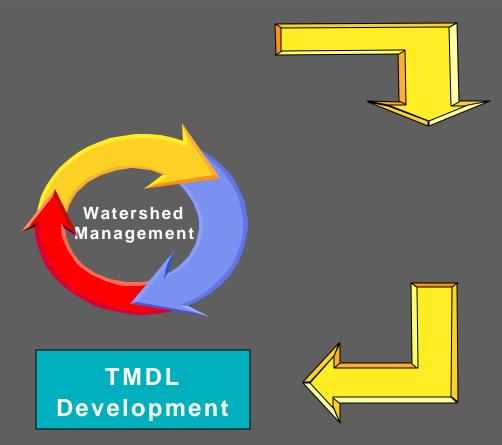
Sources of Impairment by Category from the 1998 303(d) List



Georgia's §303(d) List (Impaired Waters List)

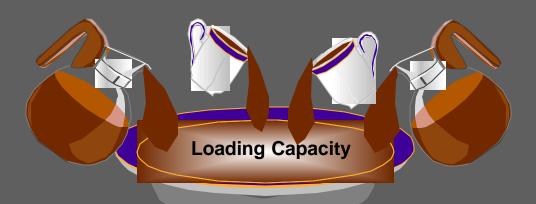
- More than 300 impaired waterways in the State of Georgia
- Pollutants associated with most DoD sites include:
 - Organics
 - Oil and Grease
 - Contaminated Sediment

Water Quality Management Planning Cycle



Total Maximum Daily Load What is it?

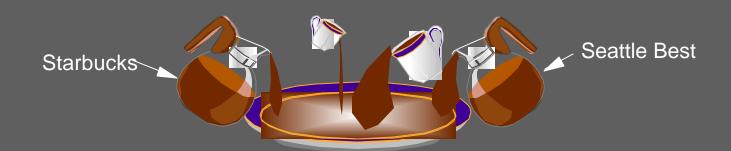
•A water pollution control plan that determines the amount of a pollutant a waterbody (stream, river, creek, estuary) can receive and still meet water quality standards.



"Who much can I pour into the plate without going over!"

TMDL Objective

".....is to assess pollutant sources and allocate allowable loads among these sources so that the appropriate control actions can be taken to achieve compliance with water quality standards."



What do TMDLs Do?

- Determine the stream / rivers loading capacity.
- **⇒** Identifies watershed sources.
- ⇒ Estimates / Predicts pollutant loadings from watershed sources (current/future).
- → Allocates loads reductions necessary to meet the loading capacity.



TMDLS

- ⇒ Are subject to public review
- **⇒** EPA actions on TMDLs
 - EPA has 30 days to review and approve or dissapprove TMDLs
 - If EPA disapproves, it has 30 days to establish TMDLs.

Components of TMDLs

WLA + LA + MOS

Wasteload Allocation(s)

How is it Conveyed?



Wasteload Allocation(s)

How is it Conveyed?





Wasteload Allocation(s)

How is it Conveyed?



Load Allocation(s) How is it Conveyed?



Load Allocation(s)

How is it Conveyed?



NPS → PS

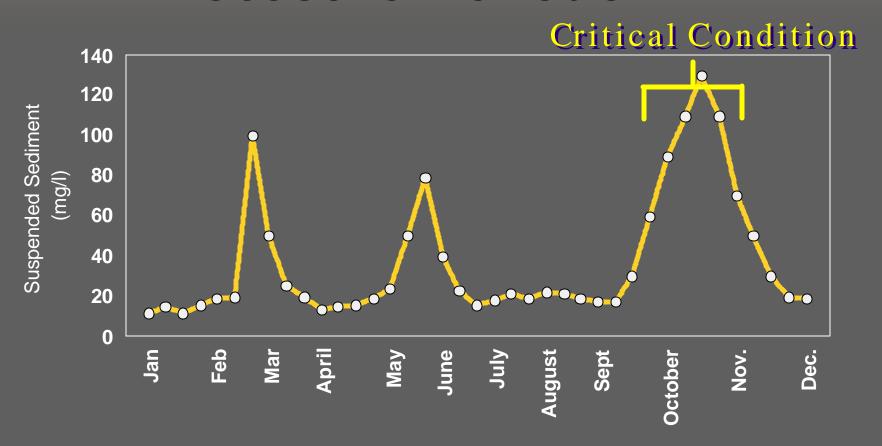
Margin of Safety

- Account for uncertainty and assumptions used in analysis
- Implicit or Explicit

Scientist are wrong + or - 100% of the time



Seasonal Variation



Suspended Sediment

What Should I Do To Get Ahead...

- More Emphasis on Pollution Prevention
 - Contain and fix problems on site before problems arise.
- Source Identification
 - Invest in environmental monitoring

For Further Information..

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EPA TMDL Website www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl